FORM PTO-1390 (REV. 11-2000) I) S DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

TRANSMITTAL LETTER TO THE UNITED STATES DESIGNATED/ELECTED OFFICE (DO/EO/US) CONCERNING A FILING UNDER 35 U.S.C. 371

ATTORNEY'S DOCKET NUMBER 163-344

U.S. APPLICATION NO. (If known, see 37 CFR 1.5

INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION NO. | INTERNATIONAL FILING DATE PCT/EP00/02045

8 March 1999

PRIORITY DATE CLAIMED

| | 1 C1/E1 00/02043 | O IVIAZON I /// | 10 March 1999 |
|---------------------------|---|--|---|
| | OF INVENTION | | |
| | | as received a direct hit from a simulated weapon | |
| | CANT(S) FOR DO/EO/US | Ambrosoli Franco and Porzio Massimo | |
| Applic | ant herewith submits to the Uni | ted States Designated/Elected Office (DO/EO/US | s) the following items and other information |
| 1. X | This is a FIRST submission o | f items concerning a filing under 35 U.S.C. 371. | |
| 2. | This is a SECOND or SUBSE | QUENT submission of items concerning a filing | under 35 U.S.C. 371. |
| 3. X | This is an express request to b items (5), (6). (9) and (21) inc | egin national examination procedures (35 U.S.C. licated below. | 371(f)). The submission must include |
| 4. X | The US has been elected by the | e expiration of 19 months from the priority date (| Article 31). |
| 5. X | | oplication as filed (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(2)) | |
| | | equired only if not communicated by the Internati | onal Bureau). |
| Total | | ated by the International Bureau. | |
| | | e application was filed in the United States Recei | |
| 6 | | on of the International Application as filed (35 U. | S.C. 371(c)(2)). |
| * ==== | a. is attached hereto. | | |
| <u> </u> | | submitted under 35 U.S.C. 154(d)(4). | |
| 7 | | he International Aplication under PCT Article 19 | |
| | | required only if not communicated by the Interna | tional Bureau). |
| | b. have been communication | cated by the International Bureau. | |
| <u>a</u> | c. have not been made; | however, the time limit for making such amenda | nents has NOT expired. |
| N | d. have not been made | and will not be made. | |
| 8 July Sun West Town Town | An English language translation | on of the amendments to the claims under PCT Ar | ticle 19 (35 U.S.C. 371 (c)(3)). |
| 9 X | An oath or declaration of the in | nventor(s) (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(4)). | |
| 10. | An English lanugage translation Article 36 (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(5 | on of the annexes of the International Preliminary | Examination Report under PCT |
| Iten | is 11 to 20 below concern doc | ument(s) or information included: | |
| 11. X | An Information Disclosure S | Statement under 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98. With P | TO 1449 and cited references |
| 12. | An assignment document for | recording. A separate cover sheet in compliance | e with 37 CFR 3.28 and 3.31 is included. |
| 13. | A FIRST preliminary amend | lment. | • |
| 14. | A SECOND or SUBSEQUE | NT preliminary amendment. | |
| 15. | A substitute specification. | | |
| 16. | A change of power of attorne | ey and/or address letter. | |
| 17. | A computer-readable form of | f the sequence listing in accordance with PCT Ru | le 13ter.2 and 35 U.S.C. 1.821 - 1.825. |
| 18. | A second copy of the publish | ned international application under 35 U.S.C. 154 | (d)(4). |
| 19. 🔲 | A second copy of the English | n language translation of the international applica | tion under 35 U.S.C. 154(d)(4). |
| 20. X | Other items or information: | Copy of Form PCT/IPEA/416 International PrelipCT/IPEA/409; International Search Report: CoPCT/IB/308 | iminary Examination Report with Form py of PCT Request; and Copy of |

| U.S. APPLICATION OF kind | ~9°1°4'1 | 43 | NTERNATIONAL APPLICATION N PCT/EF | o. 200/02045 | | attorney's docket number 163-344 | | |
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| accompanied by an a | e enclosed assi appropriate co | ignment (3 ver sheet (| 7 CFR 1.21(h)). The as 37 CFR 3.28, 3.31). \$4 | ssignment must be 40.00 per property + | \$ | 40.00 | | |
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potentially endanger users.

"Equipment for detecting that a target has received a direct hit from a simulated weapon".

The present invention refers to equipment for detecting that a target has received a direct hit from a simulated weapon.

In the field of harmless weapons which, in turn, can be divided into toy war guns, hunting firearms and rifle range weapons, there are the so-called electric, gas, spring-loaded and compressed air types.

Electric weapons are powered by an electric motor which drives three gears in turn acting on a piston. Power supply is through a rechargeable battery. Gas weapons are powered by gas from a cylinder, spring-loaded weapons function thanks to a loaded spring ejecting the projectile. Lastly the compressed air types are powered by compressed CO₂. In general, all these weapons fire a projectile consisting of a 6 mm calibre plastic pellet. In addition, other projectile types exist, comprising of measured amounts of dye which strikes the target, thus confirming a direct hit thereof. However all of these require that the weapon, whatever type, must shoot a projectile which could

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In addition, the part which is hit by the dye must be replaced or cleaned thus causing certain drawbacks.

Furthermore, with plastic projectiles, it is not always possible to ascertain with certainty, whether or not the target has been hit. The general object of the present invention is to solve the abovementioned problem associated with the state of the art in an extremely simple, low-cost and highly practical manner.

Another object is to eliminate any chance of danger and avoid the need to replace or clean target parts which have been hit.

In view of the abovementioned objects, according to the present invention, it was decided to design equipment for detecting that a target has received a direct hit from a simulated weapon, possessing the features explained in greater detail in the enclosed claims. The design and practical features of the present invention, and its advantages compared to the known technique, will be made even clearer and apparent by the following description,

25 referring to the enclosed drawings, which

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2a

WO-A-99/10700 relates to a firearm target system including a training firearm that emits laser signal in response to a mechanical wave generated from pulling the trigger of the firearm.

EP-A-0 232 157 refers to an equipment for detecting that a target has received a direct hit from a simulated weapon according to the preamble of claim 1.

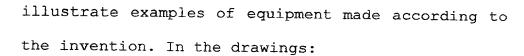
US-A-4 487 583 describes a receiver garment for weapons
10 engagement simulation system, wherein said garment
carries a plurality of photosensitive detectors.

US-A-5 344 320 discloses a dual mode apparatus for assisting in the aiming of a firearm including laser apparatus.

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- figure 1 shows a pistol constituting the first part of equipment used in an embodiment of the invention;
- figure 2 shows a second part of equipment applied to the front of a person for use with the pistol in figure 1;
- figure 3 shows the second part of equipment

 10 applied to the rear of a person for use with the pistol in figure 1;
 - figure 4 shows a rifle constituting the first part of equipment used in the second embodiment of the invention;
- 15 figure 5 shows the second part of equipment applied to an animal for use with the rifle in figure 4;
 - figure 6 shows a rifle range target equipped
 with sensors according to the invention;
- 20 figure 7 shows a controller to be used with equipment of the abovementioned type;

With reference to the Figures, equipment is proposed for detecting that a target has received a direct hit from a simulated weapon.

25 Figures 1-3 show a first embodiment in which the

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individual 13.

equipment consists of a firearm, namely a pistol 10 and a target, namely a jacket 11 and a helmet 12 worn by an individual 13.

The pistol 10 has a coded laser emitter 14 situated on the pistol barrel, connected to a switch 15 for its activation and another switch 16 situated on the pistol handle.

A magazine 17, upon insertion into the pistol 10, turns on switch 16 on the handle. A trigger 18,

The individual 13 carries a circuit box 22 attached

when pulled, fires the pistol, brought about by the laser emitter 14.

to a belt 24 which is connected, by wire 23, to the pistol 10, the same wire 23 enters the underside of the handle. In addition, the jacket 11 and helmet 12 are fitted with sensors 19 and 20 interconnected by another wire 21, situated on the back of the

The circuit box 22 also contains a battery and an 20 acoustic signaller.

Figures 4 and 5 show a second embodiment of the invention equipment, in which a rifle 30 is used as the weapon, containing a laser emitter 29. The rifle 30 is fitted with sights 31 on a slide 32, in turn located on a control box 33, containing the

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laser control electronic circuit, in turn, positioned on an additional slide. The box 33 and the relative circuit are connected, by a wire 34, to a battery pack, not shown, carried by the individual user. Only the circuit box 33 could also be carried by the user.

The rifle 30 also has a switch 35 which activates a trigger 36 of the laser emitter. A magazine 40 may be inserted into the rifle 30 near the trigger.

An animal 37, for example a deer, is covered with a vest or jacket 38 fitted with sensors 38a and a box 39 which contains a receiving circuit.

In the two examples shown, the receiving unit is

positioned differently which is positioned respectively in the first instance (figures 1-3) in box 22 and in the second instance (figures 4-5) in box 39 which sends it to a computer (not shown), possibly connected in turn to the person with the rifle 30, so as to allow the detection of a direct hit or not.

A similar arrangement to the second is that which may also be used in rifle range equipment which envisages a fixed target 45 (figure 6) and a weapon used by the shooter, namely those shown in figures 1 and 4, both connected to a computer and supplied

with signalling devices.

The target 45 may contain sensors 41, 42, 43, 44) at the various zones marked by concentric rings. Naturally, real weapons may also be used with blank rounds or plastic pellets.

As regards the production of a device or electronic control circuit of the equipment, figure 7 shows one possible example by way of a block diagram denoted, as a whole, by 50.

The device 50 is built around an RISC technology microcontroller (56), which performs the vast majority of the functions required by the specific application.

Power supply is provided by a pack of four 1.5 V 15 batteries, or five rechargeable 1.2 V batteries. Note that the maximum electrical input when firing volleys is 83 mA, whereas it is 7.7 mA with weapon 10 or 30 at rest with a backup magazine 17 or 40 in the barrel. Such values permit a battery operating 20 range with 500 mA/h batteries of between six to eleven hours of activity considering weapon usage of respectively 100% and 50% of the activity time. Obviously batteries with greater capacities will result in proportionately increased operating 25 ranges.

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The sensors 19, 20 and 38a of hit detection are, according to the invention, made of photovoltaic cells. Preference for these photovoltaic cells over ordinary photocells has allowed a reduction in sensor thickness which are fitted in the "bulletproof vest" 11, on the helmet 12 or the vest 38.

photovoltaic cell responds, without attenuation, to incident beams even with angulations well outside what is normal to the 10 plane of the same sensors. More expensive new generation photovoltaic cells, which are readily available on the market and made from flexible materials, make the sensors less sensitive to 15 knocks.

To increase the reaction to random light signals common to all photovoltaic units, the same units could be counter-series connected. This greatly decreases the reduction in reception sensitivity caused by electrical discharge light sources, namely neon and mercury-discharge lamps. To curb this effect, a red film (not shown) is applied to the surface of the sensor and acts as an optic filter which cuts out the emissions in the upper

25 band of the luminous spectrum.

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Such an arrangement solves the problem connected with the use of photocells which would have required the use of lenticular optic units, with a focus of no less than 5 cm, to cover the discrete areas of detection.

Besides, the presence and use of optic collimation units of the light bands would have made the reception system directive.

In support of the microcontroller 56 for that

10 concerning the processing of the signal detected
by the optic sensors 19, 20, 38a an amplification
and filtering chain has been included to eliminate
random components from the optic signal and to
bring the signal to a level which is compatible

15 with the same microcontroller.

The sensor signal passes into an attenuator circuit 51 which, by raising the input impedance, acts as a limiter for input into a subsequent amplifier 54 which is integrated upstream and downstream by high-pass filters 52. Due to the high gain of the input amplifier 54, a low-pass filter 53 is placed the power supply to lessen and make insignificant any sound produced by the microcontroller 56.

25 The output of the amplifier 54 is clipped and made

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compatible with the microcontroller 56 by a Schmitt trigger 55 which, with a 1% opening of the input voltage, removes any possible background noise from the signal. A following additional low-pass filter

5 53 removes all the possible high frequency components which could interfere with the functioning of the microcontroller 56.

The microcontroller 56 picks up the signal coming from the sensors 19, 20 and 38a and emits a message based on the decoded signal.

In fact, there is an indicator 59 of a player's "death", for example a flashing red light. Another signal 60 indicates if the weapon is unloaded and another signaller 58 shows the presence of magazines in a weapon that is activated.

When the magazine 17, 40 is released or the signaller 59, indicating the player's "death", is activated the microcontroller 56 makes it impossible for any further shots to be fired.

20 The shot is represented by a coded signal lasting approximately 50 m/s which can be emitted singly or repeatedly, at a rate of ten signals per second, depending on a manual or automatic weapon dial 57 (repeater shots or machine gun). The emitted shot signal controls a laser diode with radiation at

the lower end of the frequency spectrum making up visible light (red colour at 670 nm; max. power 5mW).

When the magazine 17, 40 in the barrel runs out of shots, the microcontroller 56 prevents their emission and activates a signaller 60 which flashes green for an eighth of a second every second.

To replace the magazine 17, 40 it must be disconnected from the weapon 10, 30 until the

10 flashing green signaller 60 stops flashing.

In addition, the microcontroller 56 emits two signals for a generator of sound effects which reproduces differentiated sounds for when shots are fired and when a player is hit. Quartz was appropriately chosen as the base time reference of microcontroller 56, since the coding signals

emitted (shots) and the decoding system of the

require any

20 To use the first weapon 10 with individuals equipped with jacket 11 and helmet 12, the users 13 must wear mirrored protective glasses to avoid the laser emission striking the pupils. This would cause irreparable damage to the retina.

signals received do not

procedure.

25 The shot is a single modulated laser emission so

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as to avoid the random effect of external light sources.

The object mentioned in the preamble of the description is thus achieved in this way.

- shown solely for illustrative and unrestricted purposes in the designs In fact, the embodiment relating to a fifle range weapon has been described
- The invention is likewise applicable to real weapons loaded with blank rounds, where two adversaries fight each other, or in hunting which, with the use of the system according to the invention, could be called "fair hunting" since it is indeed without bloodshed.

It would be sufficient to fit the chosen animal with a photovoltaic sensor.

The scope of protection of the invention is therefore defined by the claims enclosed.

CLAIMS

- 1. Equipment for detecting that a target has received a direct hit from a simulated weapon including a weapon (10, 30) and a target (11, 12, 38, 45),
 - said weapon (10, 30) providing an emitter of signals or laser shots (14, 33) operated by a switch (16, 35) and a trigger (18, 36)
- said target including sensors (19, 20, 38a, 41-44) affixed to a supporting element (12, 11, 38, 45),
 - at least said sensors being operatively connected to an electronic detection circuit of a signal or laser shot received by said sensors,
- 15 said supporting elements being worn by an user and/or animal,
 - said emitter of signals or laser shots (14, 33) being situated on the barrel of a pistol (10) and/or rifle (30), said equipment comprising a control device or control electronic circuit (50) characterised in that:
 - said control device is built around an RISC technology microcontroller (56) with the provision of power supply,
 - (59), a signaller (60) a direct hit indicator indicating whether said weapon is unloaded, signaller (58) for detecting the presence of magazines 40) (17,in said weapon are connected to said

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microcontroller (56), wherein said microcontroller (56) prevents said weapon from being fired when said indicator (59) is on.

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<u>CLAIMS</u> i

1) Equipment for detecting that a received a direct hit from a simulated weapon including a weapon (10, 30) and a target (11, 12, and characterised in that said weapon 45) (10,30) provides an emitter of signals or laser shots (14, 33) operated by a switch (16, 35) and a trigger (18, 36), and in that said target includes sensors (19, 20, 38 41-44) affixed to a supporting 10 element (12, $\cancel{1}$ 1, 38, 45), at least said sensors operatively connected being to an detection circuit of a signal or laser feceived by said sensors. I

- 2) Equipment according to claim 1, characterised in that said sensors (19, 20, 38a, 41-44) are photovoltaic sensors.
 - 3) Equipment according to claim 1, characterised in that said supporting elements are a jacket (11) and a helmet (12).

that said supporting elements are a vest (38) worn

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Equipment according to claim 1, characterised in directly

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target (45).

- 5(x) Equipment according to claim 1, characterised in that said weapon is a pistol (10).
- 6 \$\mathrm{7}\$) Equipment according to claim 1, characterised in that said weapon is a rifle (30).
 - that said emitter of signals or laser shots (14, 33) is situated on the barrel of a pistol (10) and/or rifle (30).
- 10 9) Equipment according to Claim 1, characterised in that it envisages a control device or control electronic circuit of said equipment (50) built around an RISC technology microcontroller (56) with the provision of power supply.
- Equipment according to claim %, characterised in that in support of said microcontroller (56), for that concerning the processing of a signal detected by said sensors (19, 20, 38a) is provided an amplification and filtering chain to eliminate random components from said signal and make said signal compatible with said microcontroller (56).
 - 21) Equipment according to claim 20, characterised—
 in that said chain includes an attenuator circuit

 (51) fitted upstream an amplifier (54), which is
- 25 integrated upstream and downstream by high-pass Printed:05-03-2001

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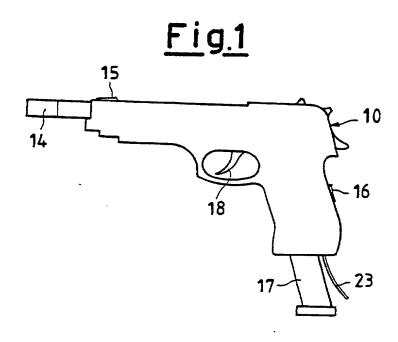
filters (52), there also being provided a low-pass filter (53) on a power supply, an output of said amplifier (54) is clipped and made compatible with said microcontroller (56) by a Schmitt trigger (55) which, with a 1% opening of the voltage, there being an additional low-pass filter (53), removes all the possible high frequency components which could interfere with the functioning of said microcontroller 56.

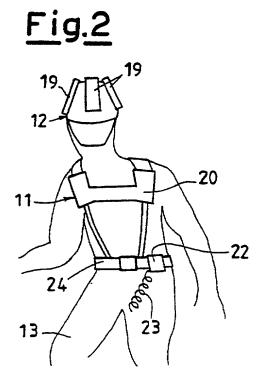
- in that to said microcontroller (56) are connected a direct hit indicator (59), a signaller (60) which indicates whether said weapon is inloaded, and a signaller (58) which detects the presence of magazines (17, 40) in said weapon.
 - 13) Equipment according to claim 12, characterised in that with said magazines (17, 40) disconnected or with said indicator (59) on, said microcontroller (56) prevents the said weapon from
- 14) Equipment according to claim 17, characterised in that to said microcontroller (56) is connected a generator of differentiated sound effects.

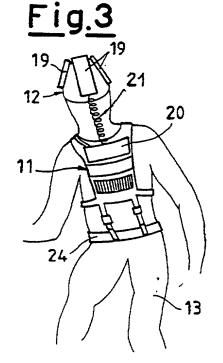
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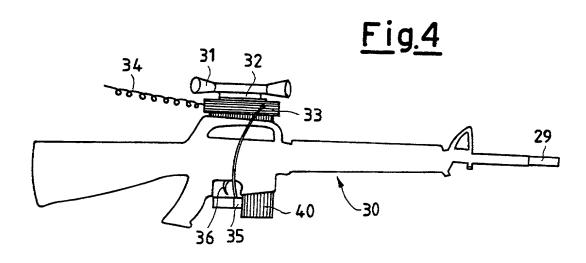
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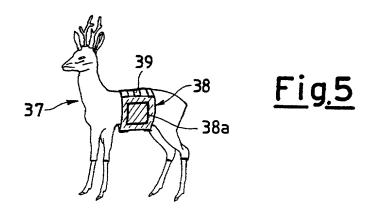






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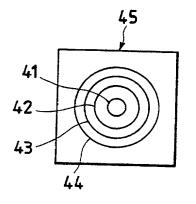
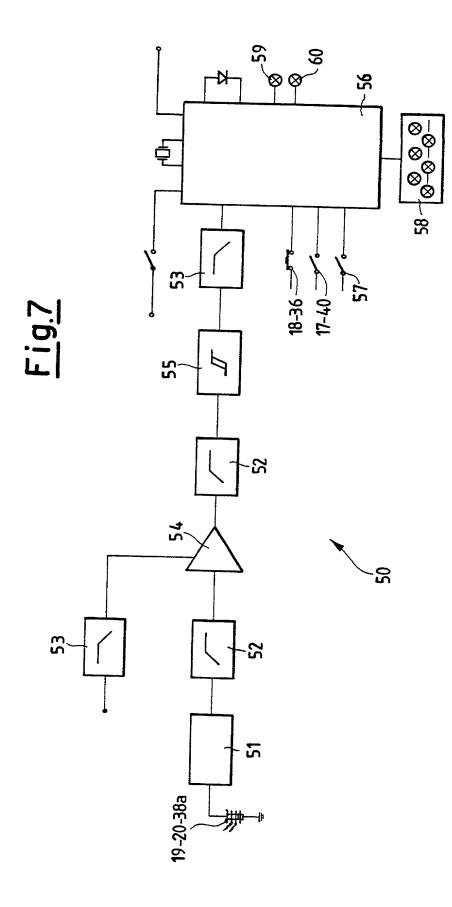


Fig.6



| Docket | No: | ************************************** |
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APPLICATION FOR UNITED STATES LETTERS PATENT DECLARATION, POWER OF ATTORNEY, AND PETITION

As a below-named inventor, I declare that:

My residence, post office address and citizenship are as stated next to my name; I believe that I am the original, first and sole inventor (if only one name is listed below) or an original, first and joint inventor (if plural inventors are named below) of the invention which is described and which is claimed in the specification, entitled. Equipment for detecting that a target has received a direct hit from a simulated weapon

| The spe | ecification | [X] is | s attache | d hereto | [] | was | filed | on |
|---------|-------------|---------|-----------|----------|-----|-----|-------|----|
| | as Applica | ation S | Serial No | • | · | | | |

I hereby claim foreign priority benefits under Title 35, United States Code, §119 of any foreign application(s) for patent or inventor's certificate listed below and have also identified below any foreign application for patent or inventor's certificate having a filing date before that of the application on which priority is claimed. 1

| COUNTRY | APPLICATION NUMBER | DATE (Day, Month, Year) | PRIORITY CLAIMED UNDER 35 U.S.C. 119 |
|---------|-----------------------|-------------------------|---|
| ITALY | MI99A000484 | 10 MARCH 1999 | Yes [X] No [] |
| | | | Yes [] No [] |

I hereby claim the benefit under Title 35, United States Code, §120 of any United States application(s) listed below and, insofar as the subject matter of each of the claims of this application is not disclosed in the prior United States application in the manner provided by the first paragraph of Title 35, United States Code, §112, I acknowledge the duty to disclose material information as defined in Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, §1.56(a) which occurred between the filing date of the prior application and the national or PCT international filing date of this application:

I hereby state that I have reviewed and understand the contents of said specification, including the claims, as amended by any amendment referred to above.

I acknowledge the duty to disclose information which is material to the patentability of this application in accordance with Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, §1.56(a).

¹In Non-Convention cases, a listing of all filings and current status of cases filed more than a year before the U.S. filing is required to comply with 37 CFR 1.56(a). Such a listing may be attached.

| APPLICATION SERIAL NO. | FILING DATE | STATUS |
|------------------------|--------------|---------|
| PCT/EP00/02045 | 8 MARCH 2000 | pending |
| | | |
| | | |

I hereby appoint my attorneys with full power of substitution and revocation, to prosecute this application and to transact all business in the U.S. Patent & Trademark Office connected therewith:

Edward A. Hedman, Reg. No. 22,120; Thomas M. Gibson, Reg. No. 24,638; James V. Costigan, Reg. No. 25,669; Kenneth F. Florek, Reg. No. 33,173; Alan B. Clement, Reg. No. 34,563; Martin P. Endres, Reg. No. 35,498 and Timethy X. Gibson, Reg. No. 40,618.

CORRESPONDENCE AND CALLS TO:

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100

James V. Cestigan, Esq. HEDMAN, GIBSON & COSTIGAN, P.C.

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The undersigned declares further that all statements made herein of his own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

| DATE RESIDENCE AND P.O. ADDRESS | DATE | INVENTOR (S) |
|--|---|--|
| Date: 22 AUGUST 2001 Via Dolores Bello 5 I- 28100 NOVARA-Italy | Date: 22 AUGUST 2001 | Name: Franco AMBROSOLIA |
| Citizen of: ITALY | Citizen of: ITALY | Signature: Jeus 000 |
| Date: 22 AUGUST 2001 Via Cavour 12 I- 28068 ROMENTINO | | Name: Massimo, PORZIO |
| Citizen of: ITALY NOVARA-Italy | Citizen of: ITALY | Signature: Mm \ St |
| Date: | Date: | Name: |
| Citizen of: | Citizen of: | Signature: |
| Date: | Date: | Name: |
| Citizen of: | Citizen of: | Signature: |
| Date: 22 AUGUST 2001 Citizen of: ITALY Date: 22 AUGUST 2001 Citizen of: ITALY Date: Citizen of: ITALY Date: Citizen of: ITALY Date: Citizen of: Date: Citizen of: | Citizen of: ITALY Date: 22 AUGUST 2001 Citizen of: ITALY Date: Citizen of: Date: | Signature: MASSIMO PORZIO Signature: MASSIMO PORZIO Name: Signature: Name: |